THE

PHILADELPHIA

MUSEUM,

OR

REGISTER

OF NATURAL HISTORY

AND

THE ARTS.

VOL. I. JANUARY; 1824. NO. I.

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A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM.

The immediate benefits resulting to society from the industrious perseverance of individuals, are small when compared with the far reaching influence of their example, on present and succeeding generations. That Franklin was a great man and sound philosopher, might have been discovered in his works, but could not have much encouraged others to hope for the attainment of a similar exaltation. But the history of his progress; his patient and thoughtful industry; his matchless prudence; his judicious seizure of opportunities; his careful investigation of all that invited his attention, and the development of the great truth that a proper and unremitted exercize of talents, which are more or less confided to every man, will eventually raise an individual to the highest honours and render him worthy of the respect of mankind—all incite and inspire every one to imitate so excellent a model.

It is with a view of shewing an instance of success in a great work, attained only by a similar perseverance, that this is written. With a hope that the young may be excited to emulation and labour with a certainty of success proportioned to their industry and talent; and that the more mature may rightly appreciate the value of the services performed by an individual cotemporary: furnishing at the same time, an evidence of how much one man MAY do, and by a direct inference how much every man OUGHT to do, for the advantage of the human family in general.

THE PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM, now an ornament of this great city, and pride of our country, was begun but a few years since by an Individual, who has lived to see it equal in extent any institution of similar character, and in some departments to exceed any collection in the world. Like all other great institutions it has gradually risen from an humble origin, and ascended until it has been fairly raised above the clouds which impend over the beginning of all things, to an elevation which enjoys the light without interception or remission.

In the year 1784, this institution was begun by a donation

from a respected gentleman, still residing here; and from that time to the present, the whole of the intellectual and pecuniary resources of CHARLES WILLSON PEALE, have been exclusively devoted to the advancement of this great design. Instead of applying the profits of his work as an artist, to the acquisition of immediate property and wealth, he chose to expend them on materials which could afford instruction and benefit to his fellow citizens. This was the object of his dearest wishes, and the steadiness with which he has persevered may be estimated by the extent and grandeur of the Institution he has succeeded in forming. That money was the least consideration which engaged his attention, is evinced by this, that from the first, instead of making it notorious by the means usually employed to solicit the public eye or allure the vulgar gaze, he suffered the claims of the Institution to be in some degree overlooked, rather causing it to be sought for, than obtruding it on those whose peculiar taste would have been gratified by learning in any form of its character and extent. The doors of the Museum have ever been closed against the profligate and indecent; it has been preserved with scrupulous fidelity as a place in which the refined and the virtuous of society may meet, to enjoy such pleasures as can be tasted by the refined and virtuous alone.

When the circumstances are recollected together, that this magnificent collection of natural and artificial wonders, has in great degree been the fruit of individual exertion—that this receptacle, containing an immense number of the productions of our vast country, and the portraits of those who assisted in giving stability to our extended empire;—this temple of Nature, where the GOD of nature is best seen through his works —is it not to be hoped that hereafter it will command the degree of respect it merits, and the services and example of the founder have their influence on the community.

The spirit which prompted its foundation, induced the founder to wish for its permanence. To effect this, and at the same time to perform a duty to a large family, Mr. Peale has obtained an act of incorporation, which secures to Philadelphia the advantages of the institution, while it enables him to attend to the rights of his descendants. This has been accomplished; the Museum is now incorporate. It is placed under the direction of trustees, who are to be elected annually by the stockholders. The number of shares is five hundred, valued at two hundred dollars each. No article constituting a part of the cabinets of the Museum, can be removed or alienated on any account.

It is almost superfluous to dwell on the advantages of this institution or its incorporation to the City. It forms one of the strongest attractions for strangers, and the earliest wish of the distant student of natural history, in this country, is for an opportunity of seeing this celebrated cabinet. To the resident of Philadelphia this Museum affords the most excellent means of early initiating his children in the works of nature, of instructing them with slight effort in branches of knowledge fitted to expand and enlighten the mind. Opening before them a mine of intellectual wealth, where even moderate and well directed attention will be repaid by treasures of incalculable value. To the philosophic student, such a collection is every thing; he is able to test his knowledge by direct examination: to refute the errors of books, by immediate application to fact. By the number of these which are collected he can extend his generalizations to a more useful distance, and correct his reasonings and judgment, because his inaccuracies will lie open to detection.

The act of incorporation insures the stability of the Museum. It renders one possessed of proper objects a more willing donor, because he knows that his children and fellow citizens will continue to be benefitted by this institution, long after he has ceased to exist. It is an assurance that the museum will continue to be well conducted, as the persons who conduct it are individually responsible for the trust confided to them.

The Philadelphia Museum, at present contains two hundred and fifty quadrupeds; eleven hundred and ten birds; three thousand four hundred and fifty four insects; cabinets of fishes, reptiles, and an immense variety of miscellaneous articles. Among the most interesting cabinets may be mentioned the Anatomical, in which is deposited the beautiful and valuable collections of Dr. Harlan, in Craniology and Comparative Anatomy.

NATURAL HISTORY.

ON THE POLITY OF NATURE.

When we attentively consider the present condition of the inorganic kingdom, it will appear obvious, that the continuance of its existence and arrangement does not dedend on the presence of organized beings. Independent of its vegetable covering, of the animals by which it is peopled and of man himself, this globe could still revolve in its orbit, and act its part in the solar system, though naked silent and lifeless,—

Changes would, indeed, take place on its surface, in consequence of the laws of chemistry and mechanics, and independent of the aid of living bodies. The prominent parts would be worn down; the hollows would be filled up; and its outline would assume an inclination every where at right angles with the direction of gravity. These changes have been in part accomplished,; and have impressed on the different strata the peculiar characters of their structure and superposition.

The organized kingdom, on the other hand, could not exist alone. The beings of which its composed may be considered as the parasites of this planet, and depend on its present movements for the exercise of their functions. Were the earth to approach nearer the sun, or recede to a greater distance, organized existence would be destroyed, by the mere change of temperature.

The presence of the inorganic kingdom, is necessary to the existence both of plants and animals, as furnishing them with the elements of their composition and a place of residence. — Plants may be considered as more immediately dependent on the inorganic kingdom than animals. Their attachment to the soil is more obvious; and the changes which take place in its condition, exert a more direct influence over them. The LICHENS cover the exposed surface of the rock; and, by the retention of moisture, accelerate their decomposition. The MOSSES next establish themselves in the hollows and crevices; and, by degrees, prepares a soil for the STAMENIFEROUS vegetables. These last attempt to establish themselves in such a a manner, as to banish to the still barren districts the first fabricators of their soil. The most perfect plants are, in general independent of the Animal Kingdom, or able to subsist without their presence. The members of that great family, indeed are their enemies rather than their friends.

The animal is, in a great measure, dependent on the vegetable kingdom for food and shelter. Some animals live directly on plants, as their only nourishment,— others live on the flesh of other animals, but these last, are in general, supported on vegetable food. Hence we may assert with confidence, that if the vegetable kingdom were to perish, the extinction of life, in the more perfect animals would inevitably follow.— Some of the less perfect animals are more independent in their condition. The INFUSORIA appear to subsist by decomposing water. They, however prepare a suitable repast for the ANNULOSE and MOLLUSCOUS tribes; and these in their turn, contribute to support the vertebral races, in both kingdoms, therefore, the smallest and most obscure species are subservient to the welfare of those which are larger and more perfect.

In viewing the relations of these great classes of beings to one another, we perceive an admirable adaptation of means to the establishment and continuance of the present order of things. The surface of our globe exhibits a great variety of situation for the residence of plants. Part is occupied by land, and part is covered with water. The land varies in composition and moisture; the water in its contents and motion; both vary in their temperature. But however different these situations appear to be, there are plants peculiarly adapted for each, in which they flourish with the greatest vigour, and where they are only restrained within fixed limits, by the physical characters of their station.

The condition of the Earth, which thus presents different situations for the of the Vegetable Kingdom, influences the species of the Animal Kingdom in a similar manner. But animals are not only dependent on the physical character of their *station*, but on the presence of those vegetables on which they subsist, whether directly or indirectly. In the existing arrangements, animals are distributed with regard to plants, in such a manner, as that a supply of food may be readily obtained; limited, however, so as to prevent the excessive increase of any particular species. In their turn, animals influence the growth of plants, by keeping many species within due bounds, and by assisting the dissemination and nourishment of others. But amidst this variety of action and reaction, and of temporary derangement, circumstances always arise, by which irregularities are checked, losses compensated, and the balance of life preserved.

Linnæus, from the contemplation of this subject concluded contrary to the generally received opinion, that animals were created on account of plants, not plants on account of animals. The defence of this opinion rests on the consideration of animals having organs suited to cut & bruise vegetables as food, and by these operations, sometimes contributing to preserve an equal proportion among the species; and on the following reasoning—that the iron was not made for the hammer, but the hammer for the iron,—the ground not for the plough, but the plough for the ground,—the meadow not for the scythe, but the scythe for the meadow*. The exclusive consideration of the indirect consequenees of the actions of animals has obviously betrayed Linnæus into this opinion. That it is erroneous, may be easily demonstrated by the employment of his own method of reasoning. Plants we know, are furnished with roots to penetrate the soil for nourishment and support; and fishes have fins for swimming. Now, if the soil was not made for plants, but plants for the soil; if the sea was not made for fish, but

* "Amœnitates Academicæ," vol. 6, p. 22.

fish for the sea, then instead of considering animals created on account of plants, we must draw the mortifying conclusion, that both animals and vegetables were created on account of inorganic matter; the living for the sake of the dead.

All that we know with certainty on the subject, amounts to this, that the organized kingdom is dependent on the inorganic; that animals are greatly dependent on vegetables, and that the different tribes in each kingdom have determinate mutual relations. Judging from the mode of action peculiar to each kingdom, we are led to conclude, that vegetables are superior in the scale of being to minerals: that animals are superior to plants; and that they constitute a harmonious whole, in which the marks of power, wisdom and goodness, are every where conspicuous. FLEMING: philosophy of zoology.

MATERNAL AFFECTION OF THE BAT.

Every fact connected with natural history, however insulated it may be, is worthy of preservation, as it tends to increase our knowledge.

Last June, the son of Mr. Gillespie keeper of the city square, caught a young red Bat, (Vespertilio Nov-Eboracensis, of Linnæus) which he took home with him. Three hours afterwards, in the evening, as he was conveying it to the Museum in his hand, while passing near the place where it was caught, the mother made her appearance, followed the boy for two squares, flying around him, and finally alighted on his breast, such was her anxiety to save her offspring. Both were brought to the Museum, the young one firmly adhering to its mother's teat.

This faithful creature lived two days in the Museum, and then died of injuries received from her captor. The young one, being but half grown, was still too young to take care of itself, and died shortly after.

INTERESTING FACTS RELATIVE TO THE OPOSSUM.

The Opossum is an animal whose general character

is well known, as they are found in great numbers in various parts of our country. One of the most remarkable circumstances peculiar to these animals is, that the female is provided with a pouch, Marsupium, or false belly, capable of containing several young. The commonly received opinion is, that the little animals shortly after birth—are somehow, conveyed by the exertions of the parent, into the pouch, where they remained attached to the teat until they had acquired sufficient strength to go in or out at pleasure.

About the year 1794, Mons. De Beauvois,* in conjunction with C. W. Peale, in Philadelphia, procured a number of Opossums, for the purpose of ascertaining the exact size of the young, when they crept as was supposed, into the pouch of the mother. In the majority of instances, the young were so large as to go in and out at will, but at length a female Opossum was obtained with a pouch so slightly developed that it was only discoverable by the closest examination. They were greatly astonished to percive *adhering* to the teats within the pouch, several *embryo* Opossums, not more than *three fourths of an inch* long. One of these was separated gently and without injury, and immediately afterwards carefully reapplied to the teat; but no effort could re-attach it, none of them at this period having any appearance of life.—In eight ot ten days from the first examination, when they maifested signs of strength and motion, they might be separated and would again apply themselves. As soon as they became able to walk, they would pass in and out of the pouch of their own accord.

In the year 1815, while proprietor of the Baltimore Museum, I received an Opossum having nine young

* Baron Palisot De Beauvois, who resided for a considerable time in the United States: well known to scientific naturalists by his work on the Mosses, and by his contributions to the natural history of Africa.

ones, larger than mice, which were carefully kept until the young ones grew to be as large as rats, and no longer sought refuge in the maternal pouch. Being desirous of preserving the animal with some of the young ones peeping out of the pouch, they were immediately killed. In skinning the old one, we discoved that the *whole of the pouch and teats* were separating from the animal, and in a day or two would have dropped off, leaving the female Opossum as they are often observed without a vestige of the pouch or false belly. From these facts, we are unavoidably led to conclude, that the young do not of themselves, at first enter the pouch, nor are they introduced subsequent to birth by the parent—but they grow with the growth of the pouch, which is at last capable of containing nine or ten young ones as large as rats, and that the pouch is formed and thrown off, with every litter of young.

REMBRANDT PEALE.

* This animal was prepared by Mr. JAMES GRIFFITHS.

THE FINE ARTS.

Although as yet, we possess no National Galleries in America to diffuse a correct taste, nor many of the standard works by the greatest masters, which in Europe give confidence to the decisions of both of artists and amateurs, it must be granted that the American people are as well disposed towards the cultivators of them as those of any other country.

It has been said that we are too young for the arts. This is not true—for, however recent we may be in regard to the wilderness which has been removed and rendered populous, however fresh our edifices may be in comparison with the feudal castles and picturesque ruins in Europe—the sources of literary information are so precisely the same—we are so completely identified in manners and topics of conversation, with the most refined nations of Europe—that we can only be called young in relation to institutions which nothing but a long lapse of time can advance to maturity.—Full of talent, as well as enterprise, Americans have depreciated themselves by over-rating the productions of Europe, especially in painting, and have been led into error by the influence of descriptions,

frequenlty exaggerated, and always incompetent to convey correct impressions of pictures, which must be seen to be rightly appreciated. The transfiguration by Raphael, the communion by Domenichino, the desent from the cross by Rubens, the martyrdom by Tintoretto—although justly esteemed master pieces of art, are not considered faultless even by those who pride thomselves in possessing them.

But the American who reads an animated panegyric on their beauties, or listens to the extravagant praise of the traveller, who, perhaps, did not stop to admire them, or had no taste to discriminate between their beauties and defects, almost inevitably imagines such masterpieces to be beyond the reach of imitation or rivalship, without considering that they are esteemed excellent only because they exhibit some superior qualities or fewer imperfections, than the ordinary productions of the art.

Portrait painting has been well encouraged, and consequently well practised in America; but few instances have occurred of any encouragement being given for the production of historical painting. Indeed there appears but little prospect of American painters succeeding in this department unless they can find a reward by their public exhibition. The painter of historical or epic compositions must therefore, consider his work executed for the public on a long credit; and it will be well for the arts if the public should hold themselves ready to pay him, as interest, the small sums which are expected for the gratifition he is disposed to offer them; not indeed with the expectation that they will find it faultless, nor that it may, necessarily, be compared with the masterpieces of Europe, which are not without their faults, and are excellent only by comparison.—Those productions were received with feelings of kindness and complacency by the countrymen of the artists who painted them, and were the more esteemed because their authors were living amongst them.

In a climate which does not forbid the practice of the arts, under a government capable of encouraging and developing all the excellent faculties of man; and in a state of society whose enjoyments arise from leisure, curiosity, taste and knowledge; the American painter, it is hoped, may be permitted to display the products of his art, to increase and improve his resources, to amuse while he instructs, and to be rewarded for his labour. A reward, derived from this source, will be the more gratifying, because it is the exact measure, if not of the merit of the artist, at least, of the taste and liberality of those, for whose gratification he has ventured out of the privacy of his study.

VAN RHYN.

"THE COURT OF DEATH."

THOUGH the unsparing hand of Time
Flings o'er earth his mantle grey;
Though towns and towers—though rocks sublime
Perish beneath his all consuming sway;
MAN! glorious in his strength! MAN creature of a day!
Imparts to perishable things a charm,
That doth the Desolating Power disarm,
And snatch from Glory's Sun a never dying ray!

See, where those sable folds involve
Yon Aweful being, as he sits enthroned;
Upon his brow, immoveable resolve,
Unyielding sternness—sympathy disowned,
Resistless strength, perennial youth are found!
Moveth that arm of might? then nations perish;
Then severed are the ties we love to cherish,
And broken hearted Anguish wails around!

Now, view yon form in graceful bending;
Say? is that young smiler Pleasure?
Tells she not, of bliss unending
Within that vase's ruby treasure?
Curls are her's of wavy lightness:
Eyes whose faintest glance is brightness;
Cheeks of love's own roseate hues;
Lips, whose parting, joys diffuse!
Oh! when such a form is willing
To press the cup that hand is filling,
How can Youth find power to fly,
And not 'midst pleasures votaries die!

HARK! 'Tis the trumpet's voice
Re-echoing through the cave from far,
That bids yon Fiend rejoice,
Whose blazing torches light forth WAR!
His haughty soul is chained to passion's car:
Oh God! That face, how terrible to see!
There, Mercy finds no place—There, Pity cannot be!
But Pride, Revenge, Ambiton, Hatred, jar!

With locks of silver, there
Age gently presses near the throne :
'Tis not for him to feel a fear;
Nor comes he tremblingly alone:
His foot is in Oblivion's water;
But see, his loveliest—holiest daughter
Virtue, aids him; while upraising
Eyes oft turned toward heaven in praising,
Saying, Almighty! may thy will be done!

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

ON MAGNETISM.

There are few departments of Natural Philosophy, more interesting than the subject of the present essay. The Magnetic virtue, is an agent of so mysterious a character, that the results produced by its operation, are such as could not possibly be foretold, by any course of reasoning founded on a previous knowledge of other branches of the same pleasing yet wonderful subject.

We wish not to sweep away the systematic barriers by which scientific investigation has separated Magnetism from its sister scienes, Galvanic and common electricity; yet there are attributes common to them all, so strongly analogous, as frequently to astonish the investigator by the closeness of their resemblance. This is made evident by the fact, that Polarity, which is a characteristic of all the forms of Electricity, and is also concerned with the phenomena of Light, is given to all metals by contact with, or even by approaching the connecting wires of a Voltaic series of plates—which polarity is only retained by them, while they are under the influence of this arrangement, and no longer, except when steel forms a part of it. Permanent polarity is then received; hence carbonized iron becomes the agent by which Magnetism is made to contribute to the wants and luxuries of life.

Electricity, whether it is spontaneous, or produced artificially by electrical machines, is also capable of imparting permanent polarity to steel, prepared for the purpose. Magnets of the horse shoe form, have been highly impregnated by being placed around metallic conductors or Lightning rods, in exposed situations. Needles become magnetized by receiving successive discharges from an electrical battery through their length.

The principal points of analogy, and the power common to Electricity

proper, to Voltaic electricity or Galvanism, are, that they are konwn only from their effects, their POLARITY, and the tributary qualities, if we may use the expresion, of ATTRACTION and REPULSION.

The usual manner of magnetizing steel, is by friction applied between the poles of the magnet and the steel to be charged, by which the extremties acquire a polarity directly the reverse of the magnet from which they receive their power. It is not our intention to describe the various modes of magnetizing, in the present essay but it would be unjust not to mention, that the well directed talents of an ingenious member of the Academy of Natural Sciences, has enabled him to impart a more intense degree of power to artficial magnets, than has hitherto been effected or even thought possible. We are authorized to make this assertion from having witnessed a trial of a horse shoe magnet made by this gentleman. This magnet consists of five bars and weighs four pounds and a half; the instrument supported a weight of sixty five pounds, upwards of FOURTEEN TIMES its own weight: clearly evincing an attractive force much greater than has heretofore assigned as the maximum of intensity, in magnets of a large size.

It is evident from the tenour of these remarks, that magnetic intensity has not been heretofore considered as increassing in equal ratio with the weight of metal employed. What the proportion may be remains as yet a subject for discussion and experiment.

The largest Magnet we know of is now in the Philadelphia Museum.— It consists of nine bars, combined in the usual manner, weighing 31 lbs. and has supported 162 lbs. It is proper to add that this magnet is not considered to bave attained its maximum of power; another trial under more favorable circumstances is in contemplation.

An important quality connected with the susceptibility of various substances for magnetic impregnation and retention, is the temper of the metal made use of. The softest iron receives a charge with great facility and to a high degree of intensity, perhaps superior to any metal that has been tried. This charge is retained as long as the keeper, or piece of iron that connects the poles remains in contact with them; let this be removed and instantaneously the whole of its magnetism vanishes; thus shewing great susceptsbility, but entire incapacity of retention. The hardest steel on the contrary, requires more labour but retains a large pro portion of the charge it is capable of receiving; it is however, a fact, that let the material be what it may, it cannot retain any thing near the full charge received, if the keeper is withdrawn. The Museum Magnet retains a permanently attracting force of about 90 lbs. The astonishing attractive force of very small magnets is exemplified in that worn by Sir Isaac New-

ton, in a ring; it weighed 3 grains and lifted 746 grs. or 250 times its own weight.

There are a number of interesting circumstances exhibited by Iron that has been subjected to moderate degrees of heat, such as stoves and stove pipes, pokers and similar articles. Let a poker be held vertically in one hand and a traversing needle be held near its lower extremity; an immediate attraction of one of its poles will be evident. Raise the needle slowly until near the upper end—and during its progress it will be found to have changed its position; the opposite pole will be attracted. If this poker be carefully turned without jarring, the same poles will most probably continue to be attracted; but let it receive a smart blow and its poles are immediately reversed, the lower extremity becoming a north and the other a south pole.

Strong magnetic action is given to Iron by percussion. A single blow given to an Iron bar with a hammer communicates considerable power, the upper end becoming a south pole. By reversing the bar and giving it another blow the poles will be reversed. Much of the strength of the charge depends on the position in which the bar is held. The position of the dipping needle is the best for magnetizing by percussion; the plane of the magnetic equator on the contrary will deprive bars of their magnetism when struck in that position. Captain Scoresby has tried numerous experiments on this subject and proposes to deprive bars of their magnetic influence when that quality is inconvenient, by percussion alone in the position above mentioned. FRANKLIN.

INTELLIGENCE.

From the National Intelligencer of the 29th Dec.

A letter from a gentleman at Philadelphia, says—"Mr. Rembrandt Peale, the author of the Court of Death, has been for some time engaged in painting a portrait of "the Father of his Country," the great Washington, which in every particular bids fair to give the most admirably correct representation of the *character* and *expression* of this illustrious man, that has ever yet been offered to the world. To understand how he can do this, it is sufficient to know that he is the youngest of the living artists (of whom there are only *five*) that ever painted an *original* portrait

trait of Gen. Washington. Stuart's picture is the only one which has gained much celebrity, and though enriched by markings of the best character, is nevertheless exaggerated and unlike. Mr. Peale prejudiced in favor of no particular painting, but forming his likeness from his own original, from that by his father, from Houdon's bust, and the portrait by Stuart—throughout assisted by his accurate and indelibly impressed study of the great *living original*, expresses the fullest confidence of his success, and thinks he is sure that the intimates and cotemporaries of Washington will unhesitatingly acknowledge, that this is the best likeness of *the man*, in all the majesty of his character, that has ever been presented to the admiration of his countrymen."

We are happy to add that this splendid production of art referred to in the above extract, is now almost finished, and equals our most sanguine expectations. The picture will be sent to the City of Washington in a few weeks.

TO OUR READERS.

THE object of this paper, is to diffuse a taste for the study of Natural History, as well as those delightful arts which contribute so much to the improvement and gratification of the mind. It is a fact, much to be regretted, that these sources of amusement and instruction are not yet sufficiently appreciated, nor are their beneficial influences generally understood. To study nature rightly, is to become acquainted with truths of the most estimable and useful character, by which alone, we can become possessed of the knowledge requisite to correct our decisions on the productions of art, whose province it is to seize on the features of nature which are as transient as beautiful, and might otherwise perish before they could be properly admired.

To what extent the study of natural history is useful, need not at the present day be made a subject of inquiry, when every kingdom of nature has been rendered tributary to the necessities and luxuries of society. But, as the study of nature, has always been co-existent with the illumination of the human mind, and the advancement of social happiness, we may with greater advantage, consider the benefits derivable from an universal diffusion of that knowledge, which is not only most enduring, but whose first effect is to enlarge the understanding and strengthen the judgment, and whose ultimate tendency is to refine our feelings and elevate our views.

One of the first good consequences, is the removal of narrow and illiberal prejudices relative to the creatures with which the air earth and waters are thronged, as soon as we diseover the relations they bear to each other, and the part they sustain in the harmony of the vast system of the universe. It is then, that we relinquish our childish antipathies to peculiar varieties and forms of animated beings, to admire the perfection of design exhibited in their adaptation to the situations they occupy, the manner in which the individuals are to be supported and the modes by which different races are to be interminably continued.

In the next place, we are early induced to remark, that notwithstanding the innumerable variations of size, form and appearance, to be perceived in natural objects, there are certain points of resemblance existing throughout all the links of the chain, leading us irresistibly to conclude that the whole system must have been the result of one design, and must have originated in the will of ONE all-efficient cause.

One effect of this study, certainly not the least admirable, is the charm it is capable of imparting to conversation, that bond of social happiness by which existence is divested of its ruggedness and society made

an object worthy of our highest aspirations. When in our domestic circles, the beauties and excellences of nature shall banish the malignance of detraction and the caustic bitterness of scandal, the feelings will be allowed to expand benevolently, and generous confidence speedily succeed to squinting mistrust. For such a consummation, how enthusiastically and devotedly should we labour! and with how much confidence ought we not to ask for the fostering assistance of those who feel an interest in the happiness of their own offspring, and who are equally solicitous for the general good of the human family!

The plan on which this work is to be conducted, may be learned by an examination of the present number. It is our wish to give it a permanently useful character, by the truth and importance of its contents, and it is equally our desire that truth should be presented in her most attractive form. Hence, although we revere and love the grave and dignified aspect of science, it must be our effort to unbend the severity of her brow, lest curiosity be afraid to inquire, and timidity be too much awed to approach.

The useful and ornamental arts deserve our attention in an especial manner; as they minister so largely to our comfort and enjoyment. These subjects, however, are so generally known and their importance so fully acknowledged, that we deem it unnecessary to dwell on the propriety of devoting a part of this paper to the advancement of their interests.

The appearance of the second number, will depend on the manner in which the first is received. We wish not to bind ourselves or our readers, but we shall be delighted to have an opportunity of convincing them that our exertions to deserve, shall be increased in proportion to their disposition to cherish and reward.

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